

NSC BRIEFING

22 November 1957

BACKGROUND: RATIFICATION OF LAOTIAN AGREEMENT

I. Ratification of the agreement with the Pathet Lao by the Laotian National Assembly can be considered a fait accompli.

A. Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma submitted the military and political accords with the Pathets to the National Assembly on 2 November. The Assembly tabled the accords and some confession but did not take a formal vote. The President of the Assembly and Souvanna interpreted this action as constituting assembly approval. [REDACTED]

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B. The accords were subsequently signed on 12 November by Souvanna and Pathet Chief Souphannouvong. Souphannouvong initiated their implementation on 18 November when he formally turned over the administration of the two provinces to the king's representative at a ceremony in Vientiane.

C. A special session of the National Assembly on 19 November voted unanimously to invest a coalition government, including two Pathet Lao representatives. Laotian leaders regard this vote as final assembly approval of the settlement agreement.

D. Finally, the International Control Commission considers the agreements to have been ratified.

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NOT RECORDED
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